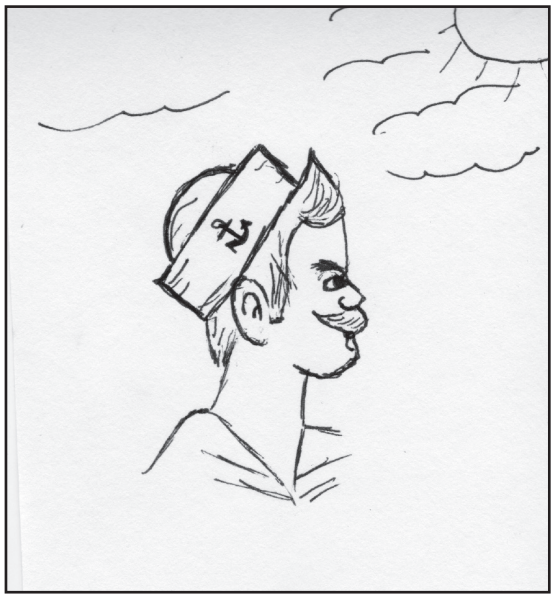
-Troy

-Aiden

Odes to Jimmie G.

TO BE HUMAN
FAR 3950
Class responses after reading and discussing Oliver Sacks' case study "The Lost Mariner"
April 17, 2025



-Daniel

Charming, intelligent, memoryless, Jimmie G.

He recalled his war days and service

His reminiscence stopped

Isolated in a single moment of being, a lost soul

There was no forgetting in the absoluteness of spiritual act

He did find his soul here

-Hannah

Ode to Jimmy G

A man trapped in time,
As he spoke of his youth

With no memory or purpose

Work and love was all he chased

No future and no past

But a free soul, he found in the garden

-Alyssa

Ode to Jimmy G

a genial soul

a full and interesting early life

full of animation

yet memoryless

indifferent to having no day before

who is one,

without a memory?

-Sophie

-Leiram

ODE TO JIMMY G.

He spoke with enthusiasm about his past as if it were the present
Thinking he was nineteen when he was really forty-nine
A highly intelligent individual with a loss of memory
He had a soul that was ultimately lost

-Mahima

Ode to Jimmy G.

He was a Navy man

Forever guessed at nineteen

No new memories

A maritime lost soul

A life of only gardening and mathematics

A free soul found in the garden

-E.K.

ODE to Jimmie G

Stuck in the past

a sailor adrift -

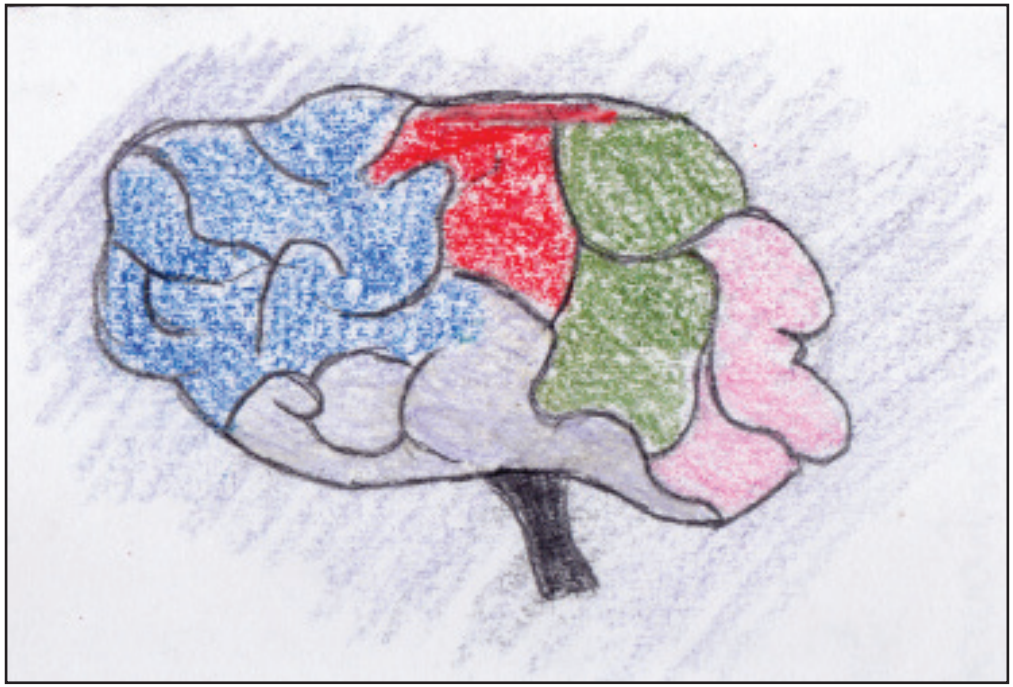
time moves,

but you do not

Still, you smile,

anchored by grace.

-Dylan



-Kennedy

Ode to Jimmie G.

"Does he have a soul?" they ask

Because he is lost

However, the garden reminds him of the past

The memories come rushing back

The soul is hidden, but it is there

-Kobe

You've begun to lose your memory

Bits and Pieces

Full of animation

Recalling, reliving

a lost soul

-Katie

Cheerful, friendly, warm

Genial soul

Full and interesting early life

The past is clear

There is a great blank

Memoryless

Alayna T.

Ode to Jimmie G.

O Jimmie G., whose rising each day is a new birth,

Lost to yesterday yet found in the chapel's hush,

Your spirit blooms where the past cannot linger

A whispered song of the present, so eternal in its grace.

-Mehmet

To one who spoke fondly of former days

And of a real beauty and great times ahead

Yet feeling as though he has no feelings at all

Nor an enjoyable life to live

Forever trapped in a time

Lost within his own mind

-Ashley

-Gavin

Full of animation

Genial soul

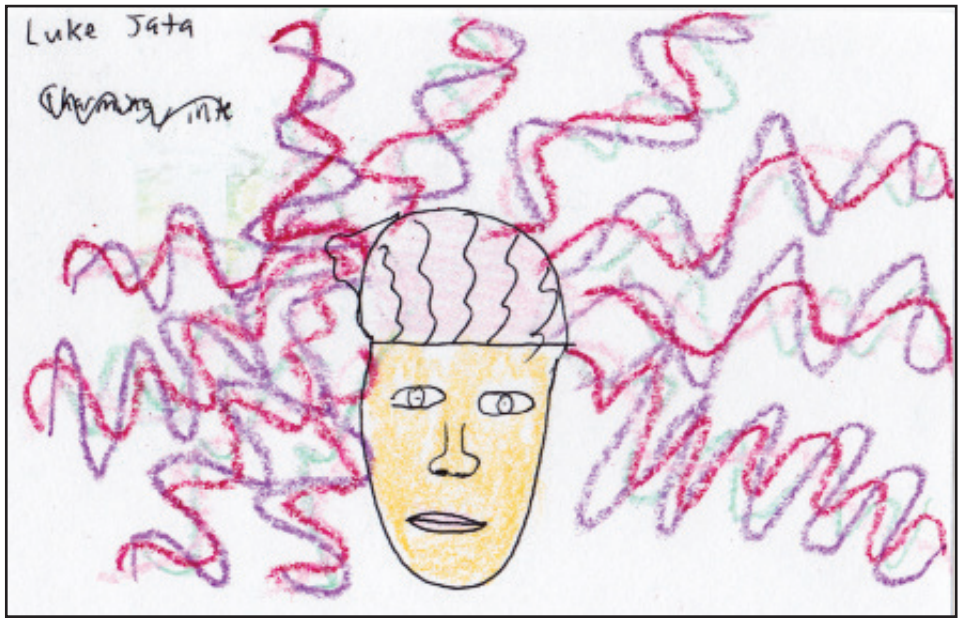
Very ready to talk

The past is clear

No new memories

Ultimately lost

-Piper



-Luke

Our memory is our coherence,
Without it, we're nothing
A full and interesting life
There is great blank
Life without memory is no life at all

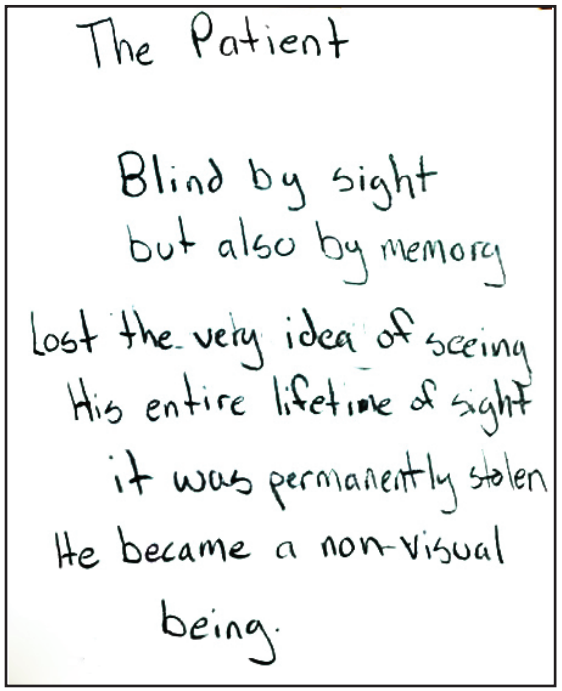
-Erika

Ode to Jimmie G.

You lived in '45,
a sailor, strong and proud
But every moment after
was swallowed by the cloud.

But in the quiet moments,
your face began to shine.
You felt something deeper
a peace outside of time.

-Pietro



-Alayna B